

## **NOAA's PRESERVE AMERICA INITIATIVE GRANTS**

### **Request For Proposals in 2006**

**DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2006**

**Eligibility: Open only to NOAA employees, NOAA-wide**

#### **Introduction**

NOAA's **Preserve America Initiative Grants (PAIG)** are in response to President Bush's call to federal agencies to preserve and highlight historical assets (such as shipwrecks, historical sites, buildings, instruments, documents, photographs, important people and their careers, and other materials that have helped advance knowledge of the environment). Proposed projects under this mini-grant program should provide innovative ways to preserve and showcase NOAA assets that represent the agency's heritage. Project proposals can vary in scope from interpreting historic and cultural assets in NOAA's care to capturing oral histories of NOAA stakeholder groups, including fishermen and Native Americans.

Last year's projects ranged widely and were a tremendous success. The six projects funded in FY05 ranged from \$11,400 to \$22,600. Projects not funded in FY05 have found their own champions and are pursuing funding under other sponsorship as a result of the increased visibility of NOAA's heritage and contributions through science, stewardship and service to the nation. NOAA is leading the way for federal agencies in implementing the Preserve America Initiative. Just as in 2005, NOAA leaders again encourage NOAA employees to develop new, creative projects to capitalize on NOAA heritage assets.

NOAA Preserve America Initiative Grants will be awarded only to NOAA offices, although other federal, state, tribal, Native Hawaiian, academic and non-profit organizations can act as partners. Projects should be designed to address a specific need and be completed within a calendar year. Ongoing projects will be considered, and phased multi-year approaches are eligible although ongoing funding is not guaranteed, and multi-year projects must reapply annually. Projects that can be replicated are encouraged. The total available this year is \$175K, combining the continuing support of NOAA line offices in the amount of \$100K with an additional \$75K from NOAA's Office of Education to further encourage projects emphasizing the educational component.

#### **Criteria for Qualification**

To qualify for PAIG awards, projects should meet most of these criteria:

1. Preserve, protect, or enhance historic NOAA properties or heritage assets (from historic maps and charts to shipwrecks).
2. Put these assets to use in educational, research, tourism, or other types of projects.
3. Incorporate unique local or regional cultural heritage.
4. Develop new partnerships or expand existing partnerships.

5. Provide economic benefits (by preserving valuable assets, promoting heritage tourism, etc.).
6. Relate to NOAA's mission (as stated in "NOAA's Mission" and "NOAA's Goals and Priorities" on the NOAA website under the heading "NOAA Strategic Planning").

### **Developing Proposals**

Included in this request for proposals (RFP) is a format that serves as an application. Example statements of work (SOW) can be viewed online (<http://preserveamerica.noaa.gov/>) to show how proposals will look when fully developed.

### **Factors Used in Ranking**

1. PAIG criteria as described above.
2. Budget breakdown showing amounts covered by NOAA funds, and amounts covered by partners (see the proposal format for details).
3. A clearly described schedule or timeline for implementation, including progress milestones, deliverables or products, measures of success or accomplishment.
4. Letters of support from all partners, clearly stating level of support and commitment.
5. Description of new or enhanced crosscutting opportunities within NOAA.
6. Opportunities for expanding the project into subsequent years, exporting it into other locations or programs, or working with additional partners.

### **Review Procedures**

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of NOAA employees. Reviewers may request revisions or additions if the review schedule allows. Proposals that are selected will be awarded funds in April 2006. Proposals not selected this year can be revised, improved, and submitted the following year.

### **Critical Dates**

November 1, 2005	Grant opportunity announced
February 1, 2006	Deadline for receipt of proposals (submit 6 copies to Program Coordinator, early submittals encouraged)
February 17, 2006	Recycle proposals as needed for additional information or development
March 1, 2006	Log in proposals for evaluation
April 1, 2006	Award funds
September 1, 2006	Funds must be obligated

### **Summary**

This second year of grants will build on momentum from 2005 to further recognize assets and realize opportunities ripe with promise for preserving and promoting NOAA's heritage assets. NOAA has been around a long time; helping our nation grow and progress into the dominant role we now play in commerce and science. Let's continue to build the story of how NOAA has contributed to and continues to support our nation's cultural heritage and flourishing economy.

**For information, contact:**

P/A Initiative Grant website: <http://preserveamerica.noaa.gov/welcome.html>

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